# CNN - 1999 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS (1-19-1999)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU)

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From Tuesday, January 19th, 1999 CNN live coverage of President Bill Clinton's first State of The Union Address to Congress inside the United States Capital Building in Washington D.C. Also, included in this video is the Republican response.

- Coverage runs from 9:00 P.M E.T - 10:55 P.M E.T, anchored by CNN Bernard Shaw and Judy Woodruff

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this is cnn article 2 section 3 of the constitution mandates that the president shall from time to time give to the congress information of the state of the union this is one of those times but it is uncommon timing just over five hours ago the white house council was presenting the president's defense in his impeachment trial now most of the house members who voted to impeach him and senators who sit in judgment are assembled in the house chamber to listen to mr clinton's state of the union address and as the moment approaches we go to the white house and senior correspondent wolf blitzer bernie what we'll hear from the president tonight will be a major new initiative on his part to start using some of that budget surplus he's projecting some four trillion dollars in a budget surplus over the next 15 years and mr clinton will propose that 60 percent of that go towards social security ensuring that the baby boomer generation will have social security the rest should go for medicare also for what he will call a universal uh savings account uh some sort of retirement plan for millions of americans who don't have a retirement plan the rest for some increased spending including for defense spending missing though will be what the republicans want most a uh an across the port budget uh tax cut of course and mr clinton will argue that this is the time to look forward and not necessarily go for those kinds of tax cuts wolfe as we watch members of the president's cabinet enter the house chamber we want to get

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enter the house chamber we want to get get some words from our own candy crowley our congressional correspondent who's been covering the senate trial candy are the senators going to be able to focus on what the president has to say tonight given their other very weighty responsibility absolutely i mean in fact they even if they were having difficulty they would force themselves to focus it is in the republicans interest uh to show that they are engaged in the nation's agenda that they are engaged in doing other business uh you will see them tonight listening they want to show that they are respecting the office of the presidency despite some of the things that they believe this president has done the word has gone out especially from senator lot and from house speaker hastert that there will be decorum senator lot said earlier look good politics is good manners so you will see them respond politely and i suspect that you will see when they come out in their normal way to respond that republicans will not be altogether happy with what the president has to say the republicans still believe uh that there is too much money being spent on too many government programs they prefer that it all go to a across-the-board tax cut jeff greenfield you were saying just a moment ago as we listened to bruce morton recount what an extraordinary year it's been that the president didn't talk about a certain topic a year ago and he's apparently not going to talk about it tonight no a year ago we were sitting

around i think it was my first day at cnn wondering how can the president possibly stand before the american people and give a state of the union speech when this monica lewinsky story is swirling all about him maybe he'll do a confession maybe he'll talk about a problem he has instead he gave a meaty policy speech exactly why the public has said all along that they that they admire him as president even if they don't admire him personally his poll ratings shot up they've stayed there ever since and there's every reason to think he'll do exactly the same thing tonight it's his way of saying don't judge me on my personal flaws whatever you think of them judge me on the job i've done as president and so far that's where the public is and they've been there since a year ago tonight emanuel you've worked closely with this

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emanuel you've worked closely with this president is this setting uh this president's cup of tea oh this is where he's at is best uh high moment high drama in front of the chamber speaking to the american people giving them the other side of washington rising to that occasion and i think he'll be on uh all you know all pistons will be firing and also bernie uh although they've distributed a draft and they've let a lot of information out there's one major other policy area that the is not in the draft and the president will announce that it's an executive action tonight it will be a major area uh for the health of this country can you tell us what that is ron um i'm not allowed to but i think that uh it's something that's in the president's draft and they're putting the final touches on it and uh it's going to be i think it's a major area it's an executive action that he'll take leading uh in the area of the health care of this country and so this is a type of drama that the white house knows how to play out they spill out since january 1 dominating the issue agenda showing the american people they have an agenda for this country and it's not just one night and this will roll and continue to roll right up through to the budget and it's basically six weeks of straight issues and it's why i think they've taken a single evening and made it a six-week uh issue blitz of a country and this is going to be the culmination and i think it's why the president's on his game uh speaking directly to the 60 50 plus million american homes we're looking at a picture of the first lady hillary rodham clinton talking with baseball great sami sosa and we're told bernie the president is moving closer to the door through which he will enter the uh house of representatives the chamber and mrs clinton regards herself as a chicagoan and of course sammy salsa is an outfielder for the chicago cubs we should just mention that what rahm is talking about sometimes is not with the republicans they know that that they are trapped frank says no reported earlier that one republican senator says he's taught said of the president he's taunting us this is very weird

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this is very weird he knows that he's high in the polls he knows he has his moment in the sun and we have to just sit there and take it because we don't want to look churlish but it's not something these senators are particularly happy about two quick points there will be two elements of applause when the president is announced he makes his way down the aisle and once he's up there he's introduced formally by speaker dennis hastert for whom we should say this is his first state of the union having ascended to the speakership just a matter of days ago mr speaker the president the president of the united states [Applause] tony blankly is with us here at the cnn studio tony how are republicans going to receive the president tonight my sense is they're going to receive him pretty much the way they have over the years from either party this is a very ritualized activity and i can think back to the reagan years during your encounter with the be some reaction i think you're going to find them as they always are sort of civil applauding standing up when appropriate even though we have this rather bizarre event hanging over the proceedings you can't overstate the ritual nature of these proceedings tony as the president makes his way down the aisle tell us how the house is broken down it appears there are a number of democrats on the right side of the screen does that mean the republicans on the other side are well there's no official

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other side are well there's no official seating you can sit wherever you want and the early members get in early sometimes to sit you know close to the aisle if they want to shake hands with the president uh normally uh the republicans sit uh on the to the right as they as the audience looks at at the uh the speaker or to the left as as the speaker looks at them so i i don't think there's any formula tonight for it though people just sit wherever they want cnn wants to report some news at this moment as the president hands his speech to the speaker of the house white house correspondent john king sends word very quickly that democratic congressmen have been told by the white house that tonight in his state of the union address president clinton will announce that the justice department will sue the debacle companies this in spite of the state settlements that's probably what rahm emanuel was talking about one imagines is that it rom that jeff that's exactly it uh the they'll order uh the president will direct the justice department open up and prepare a lawsuit to recover cost medicare costs and that will be a major opening and i think it shows a bold sweep of this president in this white house when everybody thought this issue was dormant how to move forward and not take a loss and make it uh make push the ball down another five yards ten yards and that's exactly the issue we're looking at uh pictures that lee bill mccollum is one of the house prosecutors there standing uh not applauding one note on manners at a coffee briefing with senator trent lott the senate majority leader asked about thank you members of congress i have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the president of the united states thank you thank you very much thank you thank you thank you very much thank you

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thank you very much thank you thank you mr speaker mr speaker mr vice president members of congress honored guests my fellow americans tonight i have the honor of reporting to you on the state of the union let me begin by saluting the new speaker of the house and thanking him especially tonight for extending an invitation to two guests sitting in the gallery with mrs hastert lynn gibson and wendland chestnut are the widows of the two brave capitol hill police officers who gave their lives to defend freedom's [Music] house hmm [Applause] mr speaker at your swearing-in you ask us all to work together in a spirit of civility

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spirit of civility and bipartisanship mr speaker let's do exactly that thank you tonight i stand before you to report that america has created the longest peacetime economic expansion in our history [Applause] with nearly 18 million new jobs wages rising at more than twice the rate of inflation the highest homeownership in history the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years and the lowest peacetime unemployment since 1957. for the first time in three decades the budget is balanced [Applause] from a deficit of 290 billion dollars in 1992 we had a surplus of 70 billion dollars last year and now we are on course for budget surpluses for the next 25 years [Applause] thanks to the pioneering leadership of all of you we have the lowest violent

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of all of you we have the lowest violent crime rate in a quarter century in the cleanest environment in a quarter century america is a strong force for peace from northern ireland to bosnia to the middle east thanks to the leadership of vice president gore we have a government for the information age once again a government that is a progressive instrument of the common good rooted in our oldest values of opportunity responsibility and community devoted to fiscal responsibility determined to give our two people the tools they need to make the most of their own lives in the 21st century a 21st century government for 21st century america my fellow americans i stand before you tonight to report that the state of our union is strong now america is working again the promise of our future is limitless but we cannot realize that promise if we allow the hum of our prosperity to lull us into complacency how we fare as a nation far into the 21st century depends upon what we do as a nation today so with our budget surplus growing our economy expanding our confidence rising now is the moment for this generation to meet our historic responsibility to the 21st century our fiscal discipline gives us an unsurpassed opportunity to address a remarkable new challenge

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to address a remarkable new challenge the aging of america with the number of elderly americans set to double by 2030 the baby boom will become a senior boom so first and above all we must save social security for the 21st century early in this century being old men being poor when president roosevelt created social security thousands wrote to thank him for eliminate for eliminating what one woman called the stark terror of penniless helpless old age even today without social security half our nation's elderly would be forced into poverty today social security is strong but by 2013 payroll taxes will no longer be sufficient to cover monthly payments by 2032 the trust fund will be exhausted and social security will be unable to pay the full benefits older americans have been promised the best way to keep social security a rock solid guarantee is not to make drastic cuts and benefits not to raise payroll tax rates not to drain resources from social security in the name of saving it instead i propose that we make the historic decision to invest the surplus to save social [Applause] security

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specifically i propose that we commit 60 percent of the budget surplus for the next 15 years to social security investing a small portion in the private sector just as any private or state government pension would do this will earn a higher return and keep social security sound for 55 years but we must aim higher we should put social security on a sound footing for the next 75 years we should reduce poverty among elderly women who are nearly twice as likely to be poor as our other seniors and [Applause] and we should eliminate the limits on what seniors on social security can earn [Applause] now these changes will require difficult but fully achievable choices over and above the dedication of the surplus they must be made on a bipartisan basis they should be made this year so let me say to you tonight i reach out my hand to all of you in both houses in both parties and ask that we join together in saying to the american people we will save social security now

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last year we wisely reserved all the surplus until we knew what it would take to save social security again i say we shouldn't spend any of it not any of it until after social security is truly saved first things first second once we have saved social security we must fulfill our obligation to save and approve medicare already we have extended the life of the medicare trust fund by 10 years but we should extend it for at least another decade tonight i propose that we use one out of every six dollars in the surplus for the next 15 years to guarantee the soundness of medicare until the year 2020. [Applause] but again but again we should aim higher we must be willing to work in a bipartisan way and look at new ideas including the upcoming report of the bipartisan medicare commission if we work together we can secure medicaid for that medicare for the next two decades and cover the greatest growing need of seniors affordable prescription drugs third we must help all americans from their first day on the job to save to invest to create wealth from its beginning americans have supplemented social security with private pensions and savings yet today millions of people retire with little to live on

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little to live on other than social security americans living longer than ever simply must save more than ever therefore in addition to saving social security and medicare i propose a new pension initiative for retirement security in the 21st century i propose that we use a little over 11 percent of the surplus to establish universal savings accounts usa accounts to give all americans the means to save with these new accounts americans can invest as they choose and receive funds to match a portion of their savings with extra help for those least able to save usa accounts will help all americans to share in our nation's wealth and to enjoy a more secure retirement i ask you to support them fourth we must invest in long term care i propose [Applause] i propose a tax credit of a thousand dollars for the aged ailing or disabled and the families who care for them long-term care will become a bigger and bigger challenge with the aging of america and we must do more to help our families deal with it i was born in 1946 the first year of the baby boom i can tell you that one of the greatest concerns of our generation is our absolute determination not to let our growing old place an intolerable burden on our children and their ability to raise our

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and their ability to raise our grandchildren our economic success and our fiscal discipline now give us an opportunity to lift that burden from their shoulders and we should take it saving social security medicare creating usa accounts this is the right way to use the surplus if we do so if we do so we will still have resources to meet critical needs and education and defense and i want to point out that this proposal is fiscally sound listen to this if we set aside 60 of the surplus for social security and 16 for medicare over the next 15 years that saving will achieve the lowest level of publicly held debt since right before world war one in 1917. so with these four measures saving social security strengthening medicare establishing the usa accounts supporting long-term care we can begin to meet our generation's historic responsibility to establish true security for 21st century seniors now there are more children from more diverse backgrounds in our public schools than at any time in our history their education must provide the knowledge and nurture the creativity that will

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and nurture the creativity that will allow our entire nation to thrive in the new economy today we can say something we couldn't say six years ago with tax credits and more affordable student loans with more work study grants and more pell grants with education iras and the new hope scholarship tax cut that more than 5 million americans will receive this year we have finally opened the doors of college to all americans with with our support nearly every state has set higher academic standards for public schools and a voluntary national test is being developed to measure the progress of our students with over one billion dollars in discounts available this year we are well on our way to our goal of connecting every classroom and library to the internet last fall you passed our proposal to start hiring 100 000 new teachers to reduce class size in the early grades now i ask you to finish the job thank you you know our children are doing better s.a.t scores are up math scores have risen in nearly all grades but there's a problem while our fourth

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but there's a problem while our fourth graders outperform their peers in other countries in math and science our eighth graders are around average and our 12th graders right near the bottom we must do better now each year the national government invests more than 15 billion dollars in our public schools i believe we must change the way we invest that money to support what works and to stop supporting what does not work first later this year i will send to congress a plan that for the first time hold states and school districts accountable for progress and rewards them for results my education accountability act will require every school district receiving federal help to take the following five steps first all schools must end social promotion now no child no child should graduate from high school with a diploma he or she can't read we do our children no favors when we allow them to pass from grade to grade without mastering the material but we can't just hold students back because the system fails them so my balanced budget triples the funding for summer school and after school programs to keep a million children learning

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if if you doubt this will work just look at chicago which ended social promotion and made summer school mandatory for those who don't master the basics math and reading scores are up three years running with some of the biggest gains in some of the poorest neighborhoods it will work and we should do it [Applause] second all states and school districts must turn around their worst performing schools are shut them down that that's the polish policy established in north carolina by governor jim hunt north carolina made the biggest gains in test scores in the nation last year our budget includes 200 million dollars to help states turn around their own failing schools third all states and school districts must be held responsible for the quality of their teachers the great majority of our teachers do a fine job but in too many schools teachers don't have college majors or even minors in the subjects they teach new teachers should be required to pass performance exams and all teachers should know the subjects they're teaching about [Applause] [Music] this year's

balanced budget contains resources to help them reach higher standards and to attract talented young teachers to the toughest assignments i recommend a six-fold increase in our program for college scholarships for students who commit to teach in the inner cities and isolated rural areas and in indian communities let us bring excellence to every part of america

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fourth we must empower parents with more information and more choices in too many communities it's easier to get information on the quality of local restaurants than on the quality of the local schools every school district should issue report cards on every school and parents should be given more choices in selecting their public schools [Music] [Applause] when i became president there was just one independent public charter school in all america with our support on a bipartisan basis today there are eleven hundred my budget assures that early in the next century there will be three thousand [Applause] [Music] fifth to assure that our classrooms are truly places of learning and to respond to what teachers have been asking us to do for years we should say that all states and school districts must both adopt and implement sensible discipline policies now let's do one more thing for our children today too many schools are so old they're falling apart are so overcrowded students are learning in trailers last fall congress missed the opportunity to change that this year with 53 million children in our schools congress must not miss that opportunity again i ask you to help our communities build or modernize 5 000 schools

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now if if we do these things in social promotion turn around failing schools build modern ones support qualified teachers promote innovation competition and discipline then we will begin to meet our generation's historic responsibility to create 21st century schools [Applause] [Music] now we also have to do more to support the millions of parents who give their all every day at home and at work the most basic tool of all is a decent income so let's raise the minimum wage by a dollar an hour over the next two years and and let's make sure that women and men get equal pay for equal work by strengthening enforcement of the equal pay laws [Applause] that was encouraging you know there was more balance on the see-saw i like that let's give him my hand him that's great [Applause] working parents also need quality child care so again this year i asked congress to support our plan for tax credits and

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support our plan for tax credits and subsidies for working families for improved safety and quality for expanded after school program and our plan also includes a new tax credit for stay-at-home parents too they need support as well parents should never have to worry about choosing between their children and their work now the family and medical leave act the very first bill i signed into law has now since 1993 helped millions and millions of americans to care for a newborn baby or an ailing relative without risking their jobs i think it's time with all the evidence that it has been so little burdensome to employers to extend family leave to 10 million more americans working for smaller companies and i hope you will support it finally on the matter of work parents should never have to face discrimination in the workplace so i want to ask congress to prohibit companies from refusing to hire or promote workers simply because they have children that is not right america's families deserve the world's best medical care thanks to bipartisan federal support for medical research we are now on the verge of new treatments to prevent or delay diseases from parkinson's to alzheimer's to

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from parkinson's to alzheimer's to arthritis to cancer but as we continue our advances in medical science we can't let our medical system lag behind managed care has literally transformed medicine in america driving down cost but threatening to drive down quality as well i think we ought to say to every american you should have the right to know all your medical options not just the cheapest if you need a specialist you should have a right to see one you have a right to the nearest emergency care if you're in an accident these are things

that we ought to say and i think we ought to say you should have a right to keep your doctor during a period of treatment whether it's a pregnancy or a chemotherapy treatment or anything else i believe this now i've ordered these rights to be extended to the 85 million americans served by medicare medicaid and other federal health programs but only congress can pass a patient's bill of rights for all americans [Applause] now last year last year last year congress missed that opportunity and we must not miss that opportunity again for the sake of our families i ask us to join together across party lines and pass a strong enforceable patience bill of rights as more of our medical records are stored electronically the threats to all our privacy increase

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the threats to all our privacy increase because congress has given me the authority to act if it does not do so by august one way or another we can all say to the american people we will protect the privacy of medical records and we will do it this year now two years ago the congress extended health coverage to up to five million children now we should go beyond that we should make it easier for small businesses to offer health insurance we should give people between the ages of 55 and 65 who lose their health insurance the chance to buy into medicare and we should continue to ensure access to family planning no one should have to choose between keeping health care and taking a job and therefore i especially ask you tonight to join hands to pass the landmark bipartisan legislation proposed by senators kennedy and jeffords roth and moynihan to allow people with disabilities to keep their health insurance when they go to work we need to enable our public hospitals our community our university health centers to provide basic affordable care for all the millions of working families who don't have any insurance they do a lot of that today but much more can be done and my balanced budget makes a good down payment toward that goal i hope you will think about them and

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i hope you will think about them and support that provision let me say we must step up our efforts to treat and prevent mental illness no americans should ever be able afraid ever to address this disease this year we will host a white house conference on mental health with sensitivity commitment and passion tipper gore is leading our efforts here and i'd like to thank her for what she's done thank you thank you [Music] [Applause] as everyone knows our children are targets of a massive media campaign to hook them on cigarettes now i asked this congress to resist the tobacco lobby to reaffirm the fda's authority to protect our children from tobacco and to hold tobacco companies accountable while protecting tobacco farmers smoking has cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars under medicare and other programs you know the states have been right about this taxpayers shouldn't pay for the cost of lung cancer emphysema and other smoking-related illnesses the tobacco company should so tonight i announce that the justice department is preparing a litigation plan to take the tobacco companies to court and with the funds we recover to strengthen medicare now if we act in these areas minimum wage

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if we act in these areas minimum wage family leave child care health care the safety of our children then we will begin to meet our generation's historic responsibilities to strengthen our families for the 21st century today america is the most dynamic competitive job-creating economy in history but we can do even better in building a 21st century economy that embraces all americans today's incomes gap is largely a skills gap last year the congress passed a law enabling workers to get a skills grant to choose the training they need and i applaud all of you here who are part of that this year i recommend a five-year commitment to the new system so that we can provide over the next five years appropriate training opportunities for all americans who lose their jobs and expand rapid response teams to help all towns which have been really hurt when businesses close i hope you will support this also i ask your support for a dramatic increase in federal support for adult literacy to mount a national campaign aimed at helping the millions and millions of working people who still read at less than a fifth grade level we need to do this here's some good news in the past six years we have cut the welfare rolls nearly in half

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two years ago from this podium i asked five companies to lead a national effort to hire people off welfare tonight our welfare to work partnership includes 10 000 companies who have hired hundreds of thousands of people and our balanced budget will help another two hundred thousand people move to the dignity and pride of work i hope you will support it we must do more to bring the spark of private enterprise to every corner of america to build a bridge from wall street to appalachia to the mississippi delta to our native american communities with more support for community development banks for empowerment zones for a hundred thousand more vouchers for affordable housing and i asked congress to support our bold new plan to help businesses raise up to 15 billion dollars in private sector capital to bring jobs and opportunities to our inner cities and rural areas with tax credits loan guarantees including the new american private investment companies modeled on the overseas private investment company now for years and years and years we've had this opec this overseas private investment corporation because we knew we had untapped markets overseas but our greatest untapped markets are not overseas they are right here at home and we should go after them

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home and we should go after them we must work hard to help bring prosperity back to the family farm you know as this congress knows very well dropping prices and the loss of foreign markets have devastated too many family farms last year the congress provided substantial assistance to help stave off a disaster in american agriculture and i am ready to work with lawmakers of both parties to create a farm safety net that will include crop insurance reform and farm income assistance i actually i ask you to join with me and do this this should not be a political issue everyone knows what an economic problem is going on out there in rural america today and we need an appropriate means to address it we must strengthen our lead in technology it was government investment that led to the creation of the internet i propose a 28 increase in long-term computing research we also must be ready for the 21st century from its very first moment by solving the so-called y2k computer problem now

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computer problem now [Music] we had one member of congress stand up and applaud and we may have about that ratio out there applauding at home in front of their television sets but remember this is a big big problem and we've been working hard on it already we've made sure that the social security checks will come on time and i [Applause] but i want all the folks at home listening to this know that we need every state and local government every business large and small to work with us to make sure that this y2k computer bug will be remembered as the last headache of the 20th century not the first crisis of the 21st for our own prosperity we must support economic growth abroad you know until recently a third of our economic growth came from exports but over the past year and a half financial turmoil overseas has put that growth at risk today much of the world is in recession with asia hit especially hard this is the most serious financial crisis in half a century to meet it the united states and other nations have reduced interest rates and strengthened the international monetary fund and while the turmoil is not over we have worked very hard with other nations to contain it at the same time we have to continue to work on the long-term project building a global financial system for the 21st century that promotes prosperity and tames the cycle of boom and bust that has engulfed so much of asia this june i will meet with other world

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this june i will meet with other world leaders to advance this historic purpose and i ask all of you to support our endeavors i also ask you to support creating a freer and fairer trading system for 21st century america you know i i'd like to say something really serious to everyone in this chamber in both parties i think trade has divided us and divided americans outside this chamber for too long somehow we have to find a common ground on which business and workers and environmentalists and farmers and government can stand together i believe these are the things we ought to all agree on so let me try first we ought to tear down

barriers open markets and expand trade but at the same time we must ensure that ordinary citizens in all countries actually benefit from trade a trade that promotes the dignity of work and the rights of workers and protects the environment we must insist that international trade organizations be more open to public scrutiny instead of mysterious secret things subject to wild criticism when you come right down to it now that the world economy is becoming more and more integrated we have to do in the world what we spent the better part of this century doing here at home we have got to put a human face on the global [Music] [Applause] economy now we we must enforce our trade laws when imports unlawfully flood our nation

00:54:04 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=3244s)

i have i have already informed the government of japan that if that nation's sudden surge of steel imports into our country is not reversed america will respond we must help all manufacturers hit hard by the present crisis with loan guarantees and other incentives to increase american exports by nearly two billion dollars i'd like to believe we can achieve a new consensus on trade based on these principles and i asked the congress again to join me in this common approach and to give the president the trade authority long used and now overdue and necessary to advance our prosperity in the 21st century tonight i issue a call to the nations of the world to join the united states in a new round of global trade negotiation to expand exports of services manufacturers and farm products tonight i say we will work with the international labor organization on a new initiative to raise labor standards around the world and this year we will lead the international community to conclude a treaty to ban abusive child labor everywhere in the world

00:56:07 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=3367s)

if we do these things invest in our people our communities our technology and lead in the global economy then we will begin to meet our historic responsibility to build a 21st century prosperity for america you know no nation in history has had the opportunity and the responsibility we now have to shape a world that is more peaceful more secure more free all americans can be proud that our leadership helped to bring peace in northern ireland all americans can be proud that our leadership has put bosnia on the path to peace and with our nato allies we are pressing the serbian government to stop its brutal repression in kosovo to bring those two to bring those responsible to justice and to give the people of kosovo the self-government they deserve all americans can be proud that our leadership renewed hope for lasting peace in the middle east some of you were with me last december as we watched the palestinian national council completely renounce its call for the destruction of israel now i ask congress to provide resources so that all parties can implement the y agreement to protect israel's security to stimulate the palestinian economy to support our friends in jordan we must not we dare not let them down i hope

00:58:05 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=3485s)

as we work for peace we must also meet threats to our nation's security including increased dangers from outlaw nations and terrorism we will defend our security wherever we are threatened as we did this summer when we struck at osama bin laden's network of terror but the bombing of our embassies in kenya and tanzania reminds us again of the risks faced every day by those who represent america to the world so let's give them the support they need the safest possible workplaces and the resources they must have so america can continue to lead we must work to keep terrorists from disrupting computer networks we must work to prepare local communities for biological and chemical emergencies to support research into vaccines and treatments we must increase our efforts to restrain the spread of nuclear weapons and missiles from korea to india and pakistan we must expand our work with russia ukraine and other former soviet nations to safeguard nuclear materials and technology so they never fall into the wrong hands our balanced budget will increase funding for these critical efforts by almost two-thirds over the next five years with russia we must continue to reduce our nuclear arsenals the start to treaty and the framework we have already agreed to for start three could cut them by 80 percent from their cold war height it's been two years since i signed the comprehensive test ban treaty if we don't do the right thing other nations won't either

01:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=3600s)

nations won't either i ask the senate to take this vital step approve the treaty now to make it harder for other nations to develop nuclear arms and to make sure we can end nuclear testing forever so for nearly a decade iraq has defied its obligations to destroy its weapons of terror and the missiles to deliver them america will continue to contain saddam and we will work for the day when iraq has a government worthy of its people [Applause] now last month in our action over iraq our troops were superb their mission was so flawlessly executed that we risk taking for granted the bravery and the skill it required captain jeff toliver a 10-year veteran of the air force flew a b-1b bomber over iraq as we attack saddam's war machine he's here with us tonight i'd like to ask you to honor him and all the 33 000 men and women of operation desert fox captain carlson [Applause]

01:02:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=3722s)

[Applause] hmm it is time to reverse the decline in defense spending that began in 1985 [Applause] since april together we have added nearly six billion dollars to maintain our military readiness my balanced budget calls for a sustained increase over the next six years for readiness for modernization and for pay and benefits for our troops and their families you know we are the heirs of a legacy of bravery represented in every community in america by millions of our veterans america's defenders today still stand ready at a moment's notice to go where comforts are few and dangerous for many to do what needs to be done as no one else can they always come through for america we must come through for them the new century demands new partnerships for peace and security the united nations plays a crucial role

01:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=3840s)

the united nations plays a crucial role with allies sharing burdens america might otherwise bear alone america needs a strong and effective u.n i want to work with this new congress to pay our dues and our debts we must continue to support security and stability in europe and asia expanding nato and defining its new missions maintaining our alliance with japan with korea with our other asian allies and engaging china in china last year i said to the leaders and the people what i'd like to say again tonight stability can no longer be bought at the expense of liberty [Applause] but i'd also like to say again to the american people it's important not to isolate china the more we bring china into the world the more the world will bring change and freedom to china last last spring with some of you i traveled to africa where i saw democracy and reform rising but still held back by violence and disease we must fortify african democracy and peace by launching radio democracy for africa supporting the transition to democracy now beginning to take place in nigeria and passing the african trade and development act

01:06:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=3962s)

we must continue to deepen our ties to the americas in the caribbean our common work to educate children fight drugs strengthen democracy and increase trade in this hemisphere every government but one is freely chosen by its people we are determined that cuba too will know the blessings of liberty thank you the american people have opened their hearts and their arms to our central american and caribbean neighbors who've been so devastated by the recent hurricanes working with congress i am committed to help them rebuild when the first lady in tipper gore visited the region they saw thousands of our troops and thousands of american volunteers in the dominican republic hillary helped to rededicate a hospital that had been rebuilt by dominicans and americans working side by side with her was someone else who has been very important to the relief efforts you know sports records are made and sooner or later they're broken but making other people's lives better and showing our children the true meaning of brotherhood that lasts forever so for far more than baseball sammy sosa you're a hero in two countries tonight

01:08:13 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4093s)

[Applause] so i say to all of you if we do these things if we pursue peace fight terrorism increase our strength renew our alliances we will begin to meet our generation's historic responsibility to build a stronger 21st century america in a freer more peaceful world as the world has changed so have our own communities we must make them safer more livable and more united this year we will reach our goal of 000 community police officers ahead of schedule and under budget the brady bill has stopped a quarter million felons fugitives and stalkers from buying handguns and now the murder rate is the lowest in 30 years and the crime rate has dropped for six straight years tonight tonight i propose a 21st century crime bill to deploy the latest technologies and tactics to make our communities even safer our balance budget will help to put up to 50 000 more police on the street in the area's hardest hit by crime

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4200s)

area's hardest hit by crime and then to equip them with new tools from crime mapping computers to digital mugshots we must break the deadly cycle of drugs and crime our budgets expand support for drug testing and treatment saying to prisoners if you stay on drugs you have to stay behind bars and to those on parole if you want to keep your freedom you must stay free of drugs i asked congress to restore the five-day waiting period for buying a handgun and extend the brady bill to prevent juveniles who commit violent crimes from buying a gun we must do more to keep our schools the safest places in our communities last year every american was horrified and heartbroken by the tragic killings in jonesboro paducah pearl edinboro springfield we were deeply moved by the courageous parents now working to keep guns out of the hands of children and to make other efforts so that other parents don't have to live through their loss after she lost her daughter suzanne wilson of jonesboro arkansas came here to the white house with a powerful plea she said please please for the sake of your children lock up your guns don't let what happened in jonesboro happen in your town it's a message she is passionately advocating every day suzanne is here with us tonight with the first lady i'd like to thank her for her courage and her commitment

01:12:29 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4349s)

in memory of all the children who lost their lives to school violence i ask you to strengthen the safe and drug-free school act to pass legislation to require child trigger locks to do everything possible to keep our children safe today we're excuse me a century ago president theodore roosevelt defined our great central task as leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us today we're restoring the florida everglades saving yellowstone preserving the red rock canyons of utah protecting california's redwoods and our precious coasts but our most faithful new challenge is the threat of global warming 1998 was the warmest year ever recorded last year's heat waves floods and storms are but a hint of what future generations may endure if we do not act now tonight i propose a new clean air fund to help communities reduce greenhouse and other pollution and tax incentives and investment to spur clean energy technologies and i want to work with members of congress in both parties

01:14:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4440s)

parties to reward companies that take early voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gases all our communities face a preservation challenge as they grow and green space shrinks seven thousand acres of farmland and open space are lost every day in response i propose two major initiatives first a one billion dollar livability agenda to help communities save open space ease traffic congestion and grow in ways that enhance every citizen's quality of life second a one billion dollar lands legacy initiative to preserve places of natural beauty all across america from the most remote wilderness to the nearest city park [Applause] these are truly landmark initiatives which could not have been developed without the visionary leadership of the vice president and i want to thank him very much for his commitment here [Applause] now to get the most out of your community you have to give something back that's why we created americorps our national service program that gives today's generation a chance to serve their communities and earn money for college so far in just four years one hundred thousand young americans

01:16:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4561s)

one hundred thousand young americans have built low-income homes with habitat for humanity helped to tutor children with churches worked with fema to ease the burden of natural disasters and perform countless other acts of service that have made america better i asked congress to give more young americans the chance to follow their lead and serve america in americorps we must work to renew our national community as well for the 21st century last year the house passed the bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation sponsored by representatives sheas and mian and senators mccain and feingold but a partisan minority in the senate blocked reform so i'd like to say to the house pass it again quickly and i and i'd like to say to the senate i hope you will say yes to a stronger american democracy in the year 2000 thank you since 1997 our initiative on race has sought to bridge the divides between and among our people in its report last fall the initiatives advisory board found that americans really do want to bring our people together across racial lines we know it's been a long journey for some it goes back to before the beginning of our republic for others back since the civil war for others throughout the 20th century but for most of us alive today in a very real sense this journey began

01:18:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4682s)

in a very real sense this journey began 43 years ago when a woman named rosa parks sat down on a bus in alabama and wouldn't get up she's sitting down with the first lady tonight and she may get up or not as she chooses [Applause] so [Applause] so [Applause] we know that our continuing racial problems are aggravated as the presidential initiative said by opportunity gaps the initiative i've outlined tonight will help to close them but we know that the discrimination gap has not been fully closed either discrimination or violence because of race or religion ancestry or gender disability or sexual orientation is wrong and it ought to be illegal therefore i ask congress to make the employment non-discrimination act and the hate crimes prevention act the

01:20:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4801s)

and the hate crimes prevention act the law of the land [Applause] now since every person in america counts every american ought to be counted we need a census that uses modern scientific methods to do that our new immigrants must be part of our one america after all they're revitalizing our cities they're energizing our culture they're building up our economy we have a responsibility to make them welcome here and they have a responsibility to enter the mainstream of american life that means learning english and learning about our democratic system of government there are now long waiting lines of immigrants that are trying to do just that therefore our budget significantly expands our efforts to help them meet their responsibility i hope you will support it whether whether our ancestors came here on the mayflower on slave ships whether they came to ellis island or lax in los angeles whether they came yesterday or walked this land a thousand years ago our great challenge for the 21st century is to find a way to be one america we can meet all the other challenges if we can go forward as one america you know barely more than 300 days from now we will cross that bridge into the new millennium this is a moment as the first lady has said to honor the past

01:22:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=4922s)

said to honor the past and imagine the future i'd like to take just a minute to honor her for leading our millennium project for all she's done for our children for all she has done in her historic role to serve our nation and our best ideals at home and abroad i honor her thank you last year last year i called on congress and every citizen to mark the millennium by saving america's treasures hillary has traveled all across the country to inspire recognition and support for saving places like thomas edison's invention factory or harriet tubman's home now we have to preserve our treasures in every community and tonight before i close i want to invite every town every city every community to become a nationally recognized millennium community by launching projects that save our history promote our arts and humanities prepare our children for the 21st century already the response has been remarkable and i want to say a special word of thanks to our private

sector partners and the members in congress of both parties for their support just one example because of you the star-spangled banner will be preserved for the ages in ways large and small as we look to the millennium we are keeping alive what george washington called the sacred fire of liberty

01:24:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5043s)

the sacred fire of liberty six years ago i came to office in a time of doubt for america with our economy troubled our deficit high our people divided some even wondered whether our best days were behind us but across this country in a thousand neighborhoods i had seen even amidst the pain and uncertainty of recession the real heart and character of america i knew then that we americans could renew this country tonight as i deliver the last state of the union address of the 20th century no one anywhere in the world can doubt the enduring resolve and boundless capacity of the american people to work toward that more perfect union of our founders dreams we're now at the end of a century when generation after generation of americans answered the call to greatness overcoming depression lifting up the dispossessed bringing down barriers to racial prejudice building the largest middle class in history winning two world wars in the long twilight struggle of the cold war we must all be profoundly grateful for the magnificent achievements of our forebears in this century yet perhaps in the daily press of events in the clash of controversy we don't see our own time for what it truly is a new dawn for america a hundred years from tonight another american president will stand in this place and report on the state of the union he or she will look back

01:26:07 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5167s)

he or she will look back on a 21st century shaped in so many ways by the decisions we make here and now so let it be said of us then that we were thinking not only of our time but of their time that we reached as high as our ideals that we put aside our divisions and found a new hour of healing and hopefulness that we join together to serve and strengthen the land we love my fellow americans this is our moment let us lift our eyes as one nation and from the mountaintop of this american century look ahead to the next one asking god's blessing on our endeavors and on our beloved country thank you and good evening for one hour and 17 minutes by our count president clinton has held the members of the house of representatives and the senate at attention by our count interrupted by applause almost a hundred times apparently setting a new record for the state of the union addresses a remarkable night bernie considering what's going on very remarkable the president clearly in his element displaying the humor and the fact that he was enjoying delivering this address at one point getting applause when he said that was encouraging you know when he said let's make sure women and men get equal pay for equal work by strengthening the enforcement of equal

01:28:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5281s)

strengthening the enforcement of equal pay laws people stood up on both sides he said there was more balance on the seesaw effect of seeing members rise and bought him candy crowley is on the hill bernie i think what you saw at least by the accounts of some senators that i saw as they were leaving early i might add was a pretty standard uh reaction to the state of the union address under very unusual circumstances you saw applause when on the republican side when they liked what the president said and you saw them not applauding uh when they did lots of support from the democrats pretty much as everybody said it would go we noticed about uh 15 or so empty seats early on 10 to 15 went up to about 30 later on um but it's not unusual it's hard to read too much into that because many times lawmakers get up and leave in the middle because it gets too long i in fact ran into one senator said it's too hot in there so i'm going to watch the rest of it at my office president clinton is uh well known for his uh ability to rise to these occasions to give a a good speech will flitzer tonight the president almost seemed to suck up all the energy around him uh and to to look energized as he gave this address under very adverse circumstances wolff well judy his aides say that he spent a lot more time rehearsing this speech in the white house theater than normally is the case he had more time on his hands they said that's why he polished it they do expect just as last year even though last year he never mentioned directly the monica lewinsky allegations which had just surfaced and this year he

didn't really direct directly mention the senate impeachment trial they do expect that he will receive another boost in the public opinion polls as a result of this speech and the specific proposals that he enunciated including how to uh save social security

01:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5400s)

save social security for the baby boomer generation and also they also argue that his proposals on education crime and now the announcement that the justice department is going to file a lawsuit against the tobacco industry all of that should help boost his public opinion ratings once again if you're wondering in our live coverage where are the republicans response as soon as you see the president step through the doors there at the back of the chamber five minutes after that the gop will have two of its representatives speaking ron emanuel a top advisor formerly to this president has been watching and listening to all this what's your reaction well bernie in all moments as i said earlier uh that this president would uh rise to this occasion he looks forward to this moment and i think that the most important is the american people watch this and take his measure in this time and i think that he showed them an agenda worthy for this time i'm not sure can you hear me bernie every word okay so can the rest of the world okay but i think that that's you know and i think that the speech obviously had its length uh but i think as he closed there he talked about the next century and how they were going to take measure and he put the congress on the spot and said this is your time too as much as mine and we got it we're both going to be measured by what we produce for the american people and i think he turned this moment for the american people to watch the congress and offer his hand to work with them and i think all the politics and all the theater are there as well as the tactics and the strategy so i think that you know he loves this moment but i think the american people always look at him and take his measure at this time and that's what's going on right now and i think the white house put up an agenda for them to do that i think the republicans now appropriately given their situation will now offer their hand to work with him on a host of issues to answer their political dilemma well on that note uh tony blankley joins us as well former adviser to newt gingrich tony the president seemed to pepper this speech with

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seemed to pepper this speech with appeals for bipartisanship he talked about reaching across party lines joining together working with lawmakers in both parties he mentioned it again and again yeah uh well i mean on social security i don't think there's any doubt that the republicans are going to reach out to his uh fairly specific discussion they're going to be a lot of details they disagree with but it's certainly an opening and i know that the republicans are going to reach them on some of the other issues medicare i think there was a a lot of if not misrepresentation uh it's hard to see how his proposal of expanding the number of people in medicare at a time when it's going bankrupt uh is going to work at the time when you're trying to lengthen the time that the people are going to be retiring on social security and then moving it the other direction in medicare there were some dishonesties in the speech so the brady bill had has no relationship to the substantial reduction in the in the murder rate in the country which he implied uh i thought it was a well-delivered speech i think the republicans will pick and choose some of the issues that they're going to approach and i think everyone prac really also has to remember that this man did not talk about the big question of his impeachment he's not obliged to i think if he'd been he might he perhaps ought to have and it's worth remembering that he is a self-admitted liar and that's something that is going to be in the minds of the members of congress as to whether they can do business with him tony blankly in a moment jeff greenfield with some very succinct thoughts when we come back [Music] just a moment or so before the republican response jeff greenfield joins us did the president help himself sure president it's very hard for president not to help himself surrounded by all this pageantry and and as rahm emanuel says and i think all of us have seen this

01:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5640s)

and i think all of us have seen this since he became president this is who this man is uh it's a post-cold war era it's post-heroic the president is not personally a man of heroic stature but what he does do is somebody once described him uh he's more like a governor than a president in a way he lays out very specific proposals aimed squarely at who he's talking to i mean think of his school proposals uh no social promotion shut down failing schools that's that's small but people care all right as is tradition uh jeff the party not in power at the white house has an opportunity to respond to the state of the union address congresswoman jennifer dunn of the state of washington and congressman steve largent of oklahoma will now deliver the republican response they will be with us in just a matter of seconds from now they are at the capitol and they will be doing a joint response [Music] good evening i'm jennifer dunn i represent the people of the 8th district of washington state and i'm steve largent from the first district of oklahoma as you might imagine if you'd been sitting with us in the house chamber tonight as the president was giving his speech you could have felt the swirl of history these are disturbing and controversial times in our nation's capital a couple of weeks ago i even heard a network anchor say the capital is in chaos another proclaimed we are in the midst of a constitutional crisis ladies and gentlemen our country is not in crisis there are no tanks in the streets our system of government is as solid as the capital dome you see behind me our democracy is sound our economy is prosperous the state of our union is strong and no matter what the outcome of the president's situation life in america will go on our lives will continue to be filled with practical matters not constitutional ones i've been a single mother since my boys were little six and eight

[01:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5760s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5760s)

were little six and eight my life in those days was taken up with meeting trying to make make ends meet trying to get to two soccer games at the same time on two different fields worrying about dropping the boys off early at school in order for me to get to work on time i know how that knot in the pit of your stomach feels i've been there i'm still a practical person you heard the president make a lot of promises to a lot of people tonight but i'd like to talk to you about two very practical republican priorities tax relief and social security reform our current tax system is a burden on the economy and on the american people let me tell you a story about a fellow i represent from north bend washington his name is robert allen a few years ago the irs denied his right to file a joint return with his wife because they said his wife shirley was deceased well i've seen shirley she looks pretty good for a dead person robert took shirley to the irs office in seattle the irs was not convinced so the allens brought in their family doctor and in his medical opinion he pronounced shirley alive the irs was still not convinced it took intervention by a member of congress me to resolve this comedy which in truth is a tragedy because it's symbolic of how removed our entire tax system has become from reality and from common sense last year we passed legislation reigning in the irs so the taxpayers are now considered innocent until proven guilty but so much more needs to be done next year there will be a 63 billion dollar budget surplus mr president give it back last year a typical mother and father who both worked paid nearly 40 of their income in taxes that means 40 cents out of every dollar they earned went to the government in federal state or local taxes that's the highest percentage of income

[01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5880s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=5880s)

the highest percentage of income ever paid in taxes by american families i don't know about you but that really bothers me no wonder so many american families are struggling get married and your taxes go up save for your children's education and your taxes go up and when you die that's right your taxes go up the government gives a bigger piece of your life's work than all your children put together so what can you expect from republicans expect action first tonight we're proposing a 10 percent across the board cut in tax rates for every working american that's the down payment on a simpler fairer flatter tax system second we must end the marriage penalty we should honor commitment not tax it and third we must cut death taxes so that families don't have to sell their businesses and farms when mom and dad die in all of our tax policies we start from this premise the people's money belongs to the people not to the government the second thing i want to talk about is social security a year ago in his state of the union speech the president said he was committed to saving social security i'm glad to hear him discuss it again this evening unfortunately spending the surplus as he proposes will not save social security it just temporarily props it up with some extra cash mr

president we're still waiting for real legislation we've reserved hr1 the very first bill of this congress for the president's social security plan there's one thing we can all agree on one non-negotiable principle we must keep our contract with our senior citizens who depend on social security for part or all of their retirement income this nation made that promise long ago and we will keep that promise but social security needs not just to be patched up it needs to be updated for the 21st century

01:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=6001s)

updated for the 21st century people today want and expect to have more control over their lives and over their money but president clinton's approach as you just heard gives the government more control of your retirement income the social security dollars deducted from your paycheck currently earn less than 3 percent a year that's not enough of a return that's not going to keep social security solvent and it's especially not fair to young people and to women for example the current system works against mothers who choose to step out of their job for a while away from their career to raise children or to care for parents it works against wives who more often than not survive their husbands and they end up living for more years on fewer dollars and it works against young people who believe they'll never see a social security check here's a better way give working americans the choice to invest some of their social security dollars in personal retirement accounts we can do this without touching a dime in social security funds without raising one nickel in taxes and without touching one penny of current benefits a new century requires a new beginning in approaches in ideas and yes in civility and cooperation between political parties i'd like to close on a personal note i'm a mother a gardener a republican and a member of congress believe me all four take patience my boys thankfully turned out to be wonderful young men my plants at home unfortunately need a lot of work and as for my efforts in the congress i am constantly planning and watering as one citizen to another in spite of all the troubling things you hear about our nation's capital i believe that good ideas can take root here good things can grow here and good

01:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=6120s)

good things can grow here and good things can blossom here and now my friend steve largent thanks jennifer tonight i want to share some brief but important thoughts with you first let me say what a special privilege it is to speak to you and give my response and the republicans response to the president's remarks let me tell you a bit about myself i grew up in oklahoma and was born in the very district i'm now proud to represent i was raised in a broken home and thanks to my mom i stayed in school stayed out of most trouble and went to college i married my high school sweetheart terry a cheerleader and for the next 14 years i got to live every boy's dream playing in the national football league for the seattle seahawks after i concluded my career in the nfl i started my own marketing and advertising business back in tulsa but in 1994 i campaigned for the first elective office in my life and won i came to washington with a group of republicans committed to balancing the budget slowing the growth of government cutting taxes reforming welfare and saving medicare and that's exactly what we did but as babe ruth once said yesterday's home runs don't win today's games it's time to step up to the plate once again prior to 1994 my wife and i we weren't political we were like most families raising four kids hustling from one school or sports event to another are car littered by fast food wrappers and french fries in fact it wasn't until after i was elected that i attended a republican function where a banner hung that read gop i had to ask someone what those letters stood for they said grand old party of course i believe tonight is an appropriate time to ask once again what does the gop stand for what does the party of lincoln and reagan stand for today what are the lasting bedrock principles that personify and distinguish the republican party it's these questions i want to answer tonight because the answer is why i ran for

01:44:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=6242s)

because the answer is why i ran for office in the first place here's the 15 second sound bite answer the republican party's mission is to promote preserve and protect individual liberty free enterprise and limited government but what does that mean to my family and your family let's start with individual liberty we must

preserve the notion that true liberty and freedom come from god and are his blessing on this land and that freedom reigns only as we act responsibly toward god each other and his creation our freedom was bought at a great price and our most important responsibility is to defend this sacred gift and to keep our country secure tonight we support our troops that are stationed in bosnia the middle east and around the world and the good news is that after six years of cutting spending for our armed forces the president has signaled that he's ready to join us in strengthening our national defense we must never be complacent in what is still a dangerous world terrorists and rogue nations are rapidly acquiring technology to deliver weapons of mass destruction to our very doorstep most americans are shocked to discover that our country is unshielded from the accidental or ruthless launch of even a single missile over our skies mr president we urge you join congress in establishing a viable missile defense system to protect the united states protecting individual liberty also means protecting the unborn again this year overwhelming majorities in both houses will urge the president to end the dreadful and unwarranted practice of partial birth abortion we must uphold the sanctity of life amidst the tragedies of abortion euthanasia and assisted suicide republicans also promote free enterprise

01:46:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=6362s)

republicans also promote free enterprise we believe market principles like competition really work at the heart of free enterprise is good education for far too long we've allowed washington to dictate how our children are taught one of our priorities is to give control of our schools to local communities we want the most important election affecting your children's education to be the one that decides who sits on the school board not who you send to washington parents deserve the opportunity to choose the best school with the best curriculum the best teachers and the safest environment for their children i recently met with a room full of teachers in jinx oklahoma i came out of that meeting convinced more than ever that teachers like these know best how federal education dollars should be spent that's why republicans are leading the effort that will ensure 90 cents of every federal education dollar goes directly to the classroom empowering parents and teachers not bureaucrats and if we really want to free enterprise and the economy let's scrap the internal revenue tax code the eight thousand plus pages of confusion contradiction and confiscation are choking small business and driving the average taxpayer mad republicans want to establish a date by which the tax code will be abolished and replaced by something that's simple fair and takes a smaller bite from the family's pocketbook finally republicans stand for limited government ronald reagan reminded us that a government that is big enough to give you everything you want is also big enough to take everything you have and tonight the federal government is still too big and taking more than it should we will continue our efforts to control washington's wasteful spending and its insatiable appetite for your money well this is what the grand old party

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well this is what the grand old party stands for and if this represents your hopes and dreams we ask not that you pull for us but that you push with us back in my district oklahomans are steeped in america's deep tradition of faith family hard work and strong neighborhoods they represent the values that hold communities together and they believe in the power of a better tomorrow there's still a lot to be done but i too am more optimistic than ever these last four years have given me the unique opportunity to witness the grit and determination of the american people our greatest resource yesterday marked the 70th year since the birth of a great american leader and hero dr martin luther king in one of his last sermons in 1968 dr king warned that while the world is a closer neighborhood we are experiencing less brotherhood that's equally true today it is no longer the aggression from without that is america's greatest threat but alienation from within alienation at every level husband from wife mother from father parent from child black from white republican from democrat liberal from conservative and there's only one solution reconciliation ironically the word congress itself is made of two latin words that mean to walk together reconciliation requires the humility and courage to say i'm sorry i was wrong will you forgive me therein lies the healing salve for the wounded soul of our nation you see the body of our country is strong it's the heart that needs attention on christmas eve my

family and i packed up our kids and gifts and headed to grandma's house in the sarg in the in the car we sang along with vince gill's christmas tape as we sang one particular song i was struck by the words and by their pointy for our country tonight

01:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84XGT2xDhU&t=6601s)

for our country tonight the chorus went let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me so let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me and let it begin with republicans and democrats and blacks and whites and moms and yes especially dads let there be peace on earth and let it begin with all of us who comprise one nation under god indivisible and if we work together and walk together and if we have a congress motivated not by the maintenance of power but by principle then i believe historians will tell our children's children there walked a great people a nation that preserved the wonderful promise that we call america may god bless you and your family and may god continue to bless this great nation thank you for listening good night republicans uh steve largent and jennifer dunn giving their party's response to the president's state of the union address wolf blitzer at the white house the state of the union very much the topic of the hour tonight very much so and and white house officials are here very enthusiastically congratulating themselves they believe and this should not be all that surprising that the president did hit a home run sami sosa the chicago cubs ball player in the gallery notwithstanding the the president and his aides were convinced he had to do well tonight not only in terms of the theatrics but in terms of the substance and remember all of these new initiatives that he announced tonight whether on social security on education in going after the tobacco industry all of these initiatives have been poll tested by the president's political pollsters all of them have been reviewed very carefully to make sure this is what the public wants to hear and this is what they heard tonight very very only a very indirect reference even if you could call it that

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even if you could call it that to the senate trial when the president said near the end of his speech he said perhaps in the daily press of events in the clash of controversy we do not see our own time for what it truly is a new dawn for america the republicans in their response anxiously wanting to put new faces forward we did hear from these new faces they spoke about substance they spoke about policy which is of course what they wanted to project and as a result we have we have the state of the union and the republican response we shouldn't forget though that tomorrow the senate trial will resume indeed wolf blitzer reporting live from the white house and for the record the president's speech lasted one hour 17 minutes and 17 seconds total applause 23 minutes and 37 seconds a lot of the applause especially went to three individuals susan wilson who tragically uh suzanne wilson i should say who tragically lost a daughter in the jonesboro arkansas shooting sammy souza the chicago cubs outfielder and rosa parks regarded as the mother of the civil rights movement you know it was said that ronald reagan instituted this whole idea of recognizing heroic americans at the end of a speech bill clinton does it throughout the speech and that's why we saw perhaps nine or ten of these individuals we are going to take a break when we come back a special one-hour edition of larry king live but for now i'm judy woodruff i'm bernard shaw lots more to come

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